

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NWI Leaders Open New Bridge Between Communities

The opening of the George Lake Pedestrian Bridge provides a new link between the communities of Hammond and Whiting.

Hammond & Whiting, IN (May 31, 2011) – Regional Development Authority officials including Hammond Board of Directors appointee Peter Novak and President and CEO Bill Hanna joined the Mayors of Hammond and Whiting, and other local business and civic leaders, to celebrate the grand opening of the George Lake Pedestrian Bridge.

“While the project itself is smaller than many of the other projects we have done, it is deeply symbolic of our approach,” Hanna said. “We are the *Regional* Development Authority, and I have found that when the *region* comes together and takes action together, there is nothing it can’t accomplish.”

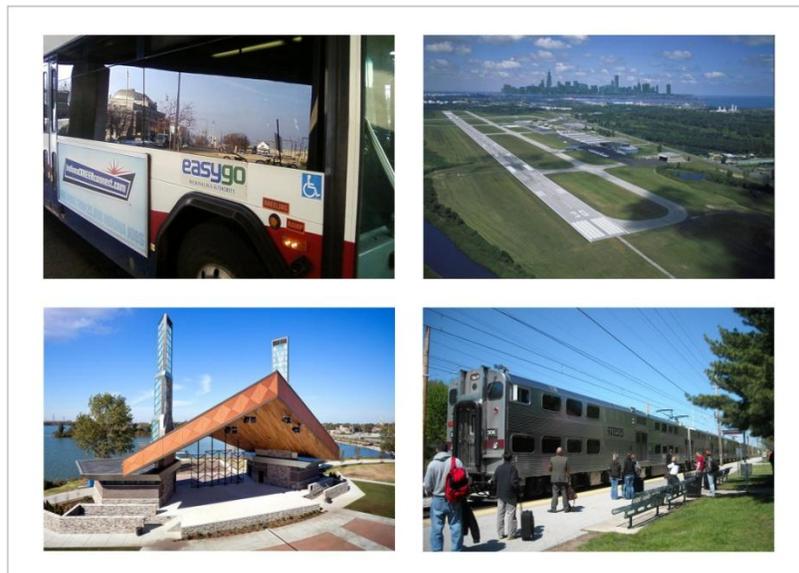
Passing over busy Indianapolis Boulevard, the new \$4 million George Lake Pedestrian Bridge joins the lakefront trails of Hammond and Whiting. It forms a critical link in the Marquette Plan’s vision for a trail system running the length of the Lake Michigan shoreline in Northwest Indiana, and connecting to the waterfront trails in Chicago.

“This RDA has funded a number of projects in Hammond and Whiting over the last several years, such as the Wolf Lake Pavilion in Hammond and extensive improvements to Whiting’s Lakefront Park,” Novak said. “This bridge provides an excellent way for residents of both communities to enjoy these great new additions to the shoreline.”

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE ADD 1

An RDA grant covered the entire cost of the George Lake Pedestrian Bridge. Since 2007, the RDA has invested more than \$53 million in lakefront and other projects in Whiting and Hammond. For more information on these and other RDA initiatives, visit www.rdatransformation.com.

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About the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority

Established in 2005 through a bipartisan effort including Governor Mitchell E. Daniels, Congressman Peter J. Visclosky, key state legislators, and local elected officials, the RDA is quasi-governmental development entity entrusted to make public investment decisions within a regional framework for supporting catalytic infrastructure projects and inducing private sector investment. Its mission is to be a catalyst for transforming the economy and quality of life for Northwest Indiana. For more information, visit www.in.gov/rda and www.rdatransformation.com.